CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling tiles within a sidebar to respond to a manipulation request by a system user or by an application to manipulate a selected tile, the method comprising:

determining a current status of the selected tile;

selecting an appropriate rule set based on the identity of the manipulation requestor, wherein the appropriate rule set is one of an application manipulation rule set and a user manipulation rule set; and

locating an appropriate rule within the appropriate rule set based on the current status of the selected tile and content of the request.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising manipulating the selected tile in accordance the appropriate rule.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising receiving a request from the system user to add the selected tile to the sidebar and manipulating the tile to add the tile to a top of the sidebar.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising receiving a request from the application to add the selected tile to the sidebar and manipulating the tile to add the tile to a bottom portion of the sidebar.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising providing a user notification to instruct the system user regarding removal of the selected tile.

6. The method of claim 2, further comprising receiving an application request to show the selected tile, determining the status as hidden, and manipulating the selected tile to reveal the selected tile.

7. The method of claim 2, further comprising receiving an application request to hide the selected tile, determining the status as visible, and manipulating the selected tile to hide the selected tile.

8. The method of claim 2, further comprising receiving a user request to remove the selected tile and manipulating the tile by banning the tile from the sidebar.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an application request to show the selected tile, determining the current status as banned, and refusing to show the tile based on the appropriate rule.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a user interface option menu for revealing the current tile status to the system user.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising providing a check mark to indicate a visible tile.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising providing a blank space to indicate one of a newly installed and a banned tile.

13. A system for controlling tiles within a sidebar when a manipulation request is made by a system user or by an application to manipulate a selected tile, the system comprising:

a status determination module for indicating a current status of the selected tile;

user manipulation rules for determining appropriate disposition of the selected tile based on the current status of the selected tile when the manipulation request originates from the system user;

application manipulation rules for determining disposition of the selected tile based on the current status of the selected tile when the manipulation request originates from the application; and

manipulation tools for manipulating the selected tile in accordance with one of the user manipulation rules and the application manipulation rules.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the user manipulation rules provide for adding the selected tile to a top portion of the sidebar upon receiving a user request.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the application manipulation rules provide for adding the selected tile to a bottom portion of the sidebar upon receiving an application request.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the application manipulation rules further require providing a user notification to instruct the user regarding removal of the selected tile.

17. The system of claim 13, wherein the application manipulation rules provide for showing the selected tile upon receiving an application request after determining the current tile status as hidden.

18. The system of claim 13, wherein the application manipulation rules provide for hiding the selected tile upon receiving an application request and determining the current tile status as visible.

19. The system of claim 13, wherein the user manipulation rules provide for banning the selected tile from the sidebar upon receiving a user request.

20. The system of claim 13, wherein the application manipulation rules, upon determining the current tile status as banned, require refusal to show the selected tile upon receiving an application request.

21. The system of claim 13, further comprising a user interface option menu for revealing the current tile status to the system user.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the user interface option menu comprises a status indicator including a check mark to indicate a visible tile.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein the user interface option menu includes a blank status indicator to indicate one of a newly installed and a banned tile.

24. A method for controlling a selected tile within a sidebar upon receiving an application request for manipulation of the selected tile, the method comprising:

determining a current status of the selected tile;

selecting an appropriate tile manipulation rule for the application based on the current status of the tile; and

manipulating the tile in accordance with the selected tile manipulation rule.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising determining the current status as banned and selecting the appropriate tile manipulation rule that refuses entry of the selected tile in the sidebar.

26. The method of claim 24, further comprising determining the current status as hidden and selecting the appropriate tile manipulation rule that allows the application to reveal the hidden tile.

27. The method of claim 24, further comprising determining the current status as newly installed and selecting the appropriate tile manipulation rule that allows entry of the selected tile at a bottom portion of the sidebar.

28. The method of claim 27, further comprising providing a user notification allowing the user to remove the selected tile.

29. The method of claim 24, further comprising determining the current status as visible and selecting the appropriate tile manipulation rule that allows the application to render the tile hidden.

30. A method for controlling a selected tile within a sidebar based on user preferences, the method comprising:

removing the selected tile from the sidebar upon receiving a user request;

refusing any subsequent request from an application to insert the selected tile into the sidebar; and

granting any subsequent request from the user to insert the selected tile into the sidebar.

31. A computer-readable medium storing computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 30.

32. A method for providing a user with control of the positioning of a selected tile within a sidebar based on user manipulation rules and application manipulation rules, the method comprising:

inserting the selected tile in a preferred sidebar position in response to a user request to insert the selected tile;

inserting the selected tile in less preferred sidebar position in response to an application request to insert the selected tile; and

allowing a user to preemptively prevent an application from inserting the selected tile in the sidebar.

33   A computer-readable medium storing computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 32.